

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Chair

David O. Fakunle, Ph.D.

Vice Chair

Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D.

Staff

Joy Ayomiposi Sarimakin
 Zenita Hurley, Esq.
 Kristin McFarlane, Esq.
 Stephanie Thompson, PMP

Commissioners

David Armenti
 Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph.D.
 Simone Barrett-Williams, Ph.D.
 Nicholas Creary, Ph.D.
 Roger Davidson, Ph.D.
 Maya Davis
 Teisha Dupree-Wilson, Ph.D.
 Omar Eaton-Martinez
 Christopher E. Haley
 Kirkland Hall, Sr., Ph.D.
 Elizabeth Hughes
 Izetta Mobley, Ph.D.
 Carl Snowden
 Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D.
 Stephanie Suerth



Business Retreat Minutes

Date: Friday, January 27th, 2023

Time: 11:45am-2:45pm Eastern Time

Location: Student Center, Wiseman Ballroom A – Bowie State University, Bowie, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners	
David Armenti	X
Iris Barnes	X
Simone Barrett-Williams	X
Charles Chavis	X
Nick Creary	X
Roger Davidson	X
Maya Davis	X
Teisha Dupree-Wilson	X
Omar Eaton-Martinez	ABS
David Fakunle	X
Chris Haley	X
Kirkland Hall	ABS
Elizabeth Hughes	X
Izetta Mobley	ABS
Carl Snowden	X
Marshall Stevenson	X
Stephanie Suerth	X
Staff	
Joy Sarimakin	X
Zenita Hurley	X
Kristin McFarlane	X
Stephanie Thompson	X

For more information on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, visit <https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/>

Members of the Public Present

N/A

Call to Order

Chair Fakunle called the meeting to order at 11:45am.

Approval of Minutes

The December 2022 business meeting minutes were by accepted by the Commission.

Public & Chair's Comments

Chair Fakunle thanked all members of the public for their presence, time, and commitment, and apologies for any delay in communication should there be any. He was happy the Commission was meeting in person for this retreat. He was grateful for the impact we have made and attention we are getting from the community and state at large. He encourages that we be proud of all the work we have done and learn from all the teachable moments he charges that there is room for improvement while, He mentioned he had a great conversation with Delegate Jennifer White who will be present in the meeting.

Re: Commission Extension through 2024

Commission collectively agreed to extended out today through 2024 at a minimum and to 2025 if legislature will approve. Delegate Jennifer White joined the meeting in person to discuss. Delegate White will seek extension that moves final report due date to December 2025, with full Commission sunset by June 2026. The hearing for the sunset extension bill is set for Wednesday, February 22nd at 1:00pm under the Health & Government Operations (HGO) committee. Dr. Fakunle encouraged that anyone free on this day can come in to testify and/or provide support for the bill.

Re: 2023 Budget

Reviewed 2022 budget expenses and discussed seeking increased allocation for resources to assist with developing, drafting and publishing/disseminating final report, as well as additional resources to support case study research. Zenita mentioned she could create a placeholder for future expenses related to producing multiple tactics/communication channels for Commission storytelling. Zenita asked

openly about other expenses that commissioners thought were necessary: Dr. Chavis mentioned project management software beyond the current methods in place. Dr. Chavis advocated for additional resources to be allocated to the Maryland State Archives (MSA), specifically to the Legacy of Slavery program led by Commissioner Haley.

Re: Commissioner Engagement

Went around the room to allow Commissioners to comment on positives and barriers to consistent engagement in meetings, hearings, and work efforts such as research. Key barrier for Commissioners affiliated with HBCUs is balancing teaching workload with Commissioner requirements. With Delegate Jennifer White present, there was conversation around amendments to bill that could include support for HBCU-affiliated Commissioners to providing offset for their institutions to reduce their workload. This barrier is not unique and will also be an issue for any other HBCU faculty/staff who might replace a current commissioner. There was no reset in expectations or discussion about Commissioners stepping aside in favor of others.

To Do: Determine if it's feasible for a timely reset of workload for HBCU Commissioners. In the meantime, restate minimum expectations of attendance at monthly business meeting and public hearing sessions.

Re: Outreach & Engagement Strategy for Key Stakeholders and other Cause Champions

Delegate Jennifer White attended the meeting in person. She is actively serving as one of the Commission's legislative advocates and point of contact. Commissioners shared ideas for furthering general engagement and storytelling. Ideas included:

- Communication products that can be shared externally such as story maps, targeted curriculum for schools, specific training/awareness for educators.
- Discussion about engaging other cause champions centered around connection with groups/entities who are activated in the same areas as Commission, or groups/entities that should elevate platforms related to racial terror. Examples included the Department of Health (racial terror as a public health emergency) and the Department of Education (MSDE). Commissioner Haley commented specifically on engagement with Maryland State Archives (MSA). Responded to early comments on additional resources for MSA to formally partner with the Commission. Also discussed key need to ensure consistent hand-off of research/hearing findings from Commission to MSA

data collection and continued need to seek consistent engagement with State Archivist. Additional comments made about more direct outreach to HBCU students.

To Do: More in-depth discussion needed on the “how,” or process to launch greater partnership or establish partnership with these identified cause champions.

Re: Strategic Plan for Commission Committees

Discussion was tabled due to time restraints and will be discussed at next business meeting.

Re: 2022 Lessons Learned & 2023 Scheduling of Public Hearing Sessions

Discussion was tabled due to time restraints and will be discussed at next business meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Chair Fakunle at 2:45pm.